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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** June 22, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has received a request from CenturyTel Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC, doing business as CenturyLink, for installation of fiberoptic cable along Forest Road 308, also known as Log Lodge Road. The potential benefit of this project would be better telecommunications in the area.

CenturyTel proposes to install fiberoptic cable along Forest Road 308 at the following locations:

- At T. 40 N., R. 5 W. section 14, CenturyTel proposes to have 1,305 feet of cable (200 feet bored and 1,105 feet plowed) running along northern boundary line of the Forest Service (**See Map 1**).
- At T. 40 N., R. 5 W. section 13, CenturyTel proposes to have 5,515 feet of cable (2,553 feet bored and 2,962 feet plowed) running west to east along center section line (**See Map 2**).
- At the NE corner of T. 40 N., R. 4 W. section 18, CenturyTel proposes to bore 80 feet of fiber from start of forest lands to existing hand hole (**See Map 3**).

The proposed project is in an existing, cleared right-of-way so there is no need for brushing. No additional access routes are needed. Cable will be placed by means of vibratory plow and directional bore. The work has already begun on non-Forest Service land, and CenturyTel is ready to start at any time on Forest Service land. The timeframe of the project is expected to take weeks.

We invite you to share any information you believe may be helpful to our planning efforts. The project proposal is under review by Forest Service specialists to determine if there are any potential issues and to develop design features and mitigation measures to prevent unintended negative effects. The Forest Service will consider your comments and the results of an extraordinary circumstances review to determine if using a Categorical Exclusion and Decision Memo to document these activities is appropriate. At this time, the Forest Service believes more formal extensive documentation or analysis is not warranted as the potential effects on various resources would be minor, or could be mitigated.

Barring extraordinary circumstances, the proposed actions may be categorically excluded from preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement pursuant to 36 CFR 220.6(d) and (e).

If you have comments, please address them to myself, Michael Martin, subject: CenturyTel Fiberoptic Install Great Divide, by one of the following methods: by postal mail to the address above; fax: (715) 634-3769; or electronically to the Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA) database at the following link:



<https://cara.ecosystemmanagement.org/Public/CommentInput?project=58318>

Please have your comments to me by July 10, 2020.

For additional information, please feel free to give me a call at the number listed on this letterhead or contact Ginger Molitor, NEPA Planner, at 715-638-0272.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Martin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL MARTIN  
District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Kelly Scarbrough